Ill-treatment of persons arrested for disobedience of the prohibitory orders of the District Magistrates in Dhanu and Makaram 1107.

300. **MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI** (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the number of arrests made in the State for disobeying prohibitory orders of the District Magistrates in Dhanu and Makaram 1107;

(*b*) whether it is true that the arrested men were ill-treated while they were under trial;

(*c*) if the answer to part (*b*) is in the affirmative, whether they approved of such treatment; and

(*d*) if they did not, the action taken by them against those who were responsible for it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Twenty-three arrests were made in the Trivandrum District for attempting to hold meetings in disobedience of the prohibitory order issued by the District Magistrate, Trivandrum. There were no arrests in the other Districts.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) and (*d*). In view of the answer to part (*b*), these do not arise.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Did the Government make any enquiry, in regard to part (*b*) of my question, after they received my question?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Are the Government aware of the statements published, in some of the local Vernacular newspapers, by some of the prisoners, that they were ill-treated in the jail?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes; there was some complaint in some of the papers.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): What action did the Government take on such complaint in the papers?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The information is not before me now.

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Will the Government be pleased to enquire into the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If the member wants an answer to the specific question whether any action was taken on the report in the newspapers about the alleged ill-treatment of these prisoners, I think he will have to ask a fresh question.

MR. K GOPALAKRISHNA PILLAI (*Parur*): Is it suggested that the statement in the papers is untrue?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not read the statements myself. How can I say off-hand whether they are true or false?

MR. K. GOPALAKRISHANA PILLAI (*Parur*): Was the attention of the Government drawn to these newspaper reports?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have not got the information now.

Meeting held in front of the Municipal Office, Nagercoil, on 21-5-1107

301. MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any public meeting was held in front of the Municipal Office, Nagercoil, on the 21st Dhanu 1107;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, the names of the speakers;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the meeting was dispersed by the intervention of the Police;

(*d*) whether any *lathi* charge was made;

(*e*) if the answer to part (*d*) is in the affirmative, the number of persons grievously wounded by the Police;

(*f*) why the Reserve Police was brought to the spot from Trivandrum;

(*g*) the cost incurred by the Government therefor;

(*h*) the name of the then Assistant Superintendent of Police, Nagercoil; and

(*i*) the approximate strength of the crowd?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*)-No public meeting was held, but there was a proposal for a meeting under the leadership of Messrs. M. E. Naidu, M. Sivatanu Pillai and Sheik Tampi Pavalar on the 21st Dhanu 1107.

(*b*) In view of the answer to part (*a*), this does not arise.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The answer is in the negative.

(*e*) In view of answer to part (*d*), this does not arise.

(*f*) With a view to meet any emergency and avert an anticipated breach of the peace that would have resulted if the meeting was held against the prohibitory order of the Additional District Magistrate, Padmanabhapuram.

(*g*) Rs. 67-1-12.

(*h*) Mr. S. Alagappa Pillai.

(*i*) Twenty thousand people approximately.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware of the high-handedness of the Police in dispersing the crowd of 20,000 people at Nagercoil, on the 21st Dhanu 1107?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. K. NARAYANAPERUMAL NADAR (*Agastisvaram*): Are the Government aware whether any public meeting was held on that day?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government are aware of the fact that there was an attempt to hold a public meeting there on that day.

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